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Remarks

Claims 1- 20 were pending in this application.

By the Amendment, Applicants amended claims 12-20 as suggested by the Examiner to whom this Application has been assigned. Accordingly, there is no issue of new matters and Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Amendment. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-20 will be pending and under examination.

Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification on page 2 line 4 "because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code." Examiner stated that "Applicant is required to delete the embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code." The Examiner cited MPEP §608.01 for his support.

The specification on page 2 line 4 provides in relevant part:

"... an Internet site (<http://www.cuseemeworld.com/>)"

In response but without conceding the correctness of the Examiner's position and to expedite the prosecution of this Application, Applicants amended the specification on page 2 line 4 to remove the embedded hyperlink and/or other form browser-executable code as the Examiner has suggested to: "an Internet site with the domain name of 'cuseemeworld.com.'". Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

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35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph, Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 7 and 12-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph, as "being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as his invention."

The Examiner stated that "claim 7 recites the limitation 'a list of URLs [Uniform Resource Locator] from each user's personal webcam is requested and organized' in lines 1-2 of the claim. It is unclear how a webcam is enabled to retrieve URLs. Clarification is required."

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection. Applicants contend that the specification as originally filed (page 12 line 4) disclosed how a webcam is enabled to retrieve URLs in that "when a chatter first visits the chatroom, the program asks the chatter if he/she would like to enter the URL of his/her webcam. If the chatter is interested, he/she enters the URL, and the program automatically associates the URL with that chatter's screen name." Also, on page 13 line 30 of the specification, Applicants stated that the program prepares the image by connecting to the Server via TCP. On Figure 3, General Server Flow, it shows Server create socket and bind to TCP/IP port.

The Examiner stated that "claims 12-20 are improper hybrid claims."

In response but without conceding the correctness of the Examiner's position and to expedite the prosecution of this Application, Applicants amended these claims as the Examiner has suggested. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

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35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

The Examiner rejected 1-4 and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C §102(e).

The Examiner alleged that:

"Claims 1-4 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(e) as being anticipated by Tang et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,793,395), hereinafter referred to as Tang.

Regarding claim 1, Tang disclosed a method which allows users to chat with each other while displaying live webcam images of more than one selected user within a chatroom environment (Figure 5, Figure 10 sign 121, Column 5 lines 29-32).

Regarding claim 2, Tang disclosed a method in which the webcam images are displayed at the top of the page (Figure 5).

Regarding claim 3, Tang disclosed a method in which the displayed webcam images have a uniform size (Figure 5).

Regarding claim 4, Tang disclosed a method in which the webcam images are automatically assigned a position on the chatroom screen (Figure 5).

Regarding claims 11-14, the system corresponds directly to the method of claims 1-4, and thus these claims are rejected using the same rationale."

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection. Applicants contend that Tang does not describe or disclose a "live webcam" or URL. Moreover, Tang does not use live video, only representation of chatter. Applicants further contend that Tang focus only on the communications between co-workers in a closed working environment, thus obviate the need for obtaining the chatters' URL. However,

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Applicants' invention can be used in the open World Wide Web or Internet environment. Tang's chatroom was divided into three areas - the user's icon area, the text window area, and the object shelf area. The top area listed all the users' icons. An aspect of the Applicants' chatroom is divided into: A) Chatters whose webcams are displayed, B) Chatters not being displayed but online in chatroom, C) The text chat area, D) Listing of available Rooms, E) Text Entry area and on the top area are webcam images of other chatters each user select to view by double clicking on the username on the right hand side. Tang's chatroom layout is different from Applicants' and each user can see the data input while he/she is typing in the Text Entry area.

Accordingly, Tang cannot anticipate the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

35 U.S.C §103 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 5-6, 8-10, 15-16, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as "being unpatentable over Tang as applied above and further in view of the invention's background."

The Examiner stated that:

"Regarding claim 5, Tang disclosed a method which allows users to chat with each other while displaying live webcam images of more than one selected user within a chatroom environment (Figure 5). Tang did not disclose the method in which chatroom users can select the webcam images they want to view while they are chatting. However, the background of the instant invention disclosed a method to show video [image] of a particular chatter in which a chatroom users want to view (Background page 2 lines 23-24). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

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the invention was made to allow chatroom users to select the webcam images of the other chatters in order to have more visual and more personal chatting experience.

Regarding claim 6, the background of the instant application disclosed a method in which each user is given a list of other online users from which they can select webcam images to view (Background page 2 lines 12-18, lines 23-24)

Regarding claim 8, Tang disclosed a method of in which each image is associated with an individual user (Figure 5).

Regarding claim 9, Tang disclosed a method in which users who do not have webcam will have a symbolic logo appear in place of their image (Column 5 lines 32-37).

Regarding claim 10, the background of the instant application disclosed a method in which image of each chatter is updated at a predefined time interval (Background page 1 lines 27-33). The symbolic logo is the image of the chatter when live image of him/her is not available and therefore will be updated at a predefined time interval in the same fashion as his/her live image.

Regarding claim 15-16 and 18-20, the system corresponds directly to the method of claims 5-6 and 8-10, and thus these claims are rejected using the same rationale.

Since all the limitations of the claimed invention were disclosed by the combination of Tang and background of the invention, claims 5-6, 8-10, 15-16, and 18-20 are rejected."

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's above ground of rejections. Applicants are claiming "a method which allows users to chat with each other while displaying live webcam images of more than one selected user within a chatroom environment (*Emphasis Added*)."

Applicants would like

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to reiterate their position as stated supra. Applicants maintain that Tang does not describe or disclose a "live webcam" or URL. Moreover, Tang does not use live video, only representation of the chatter.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's assertion that "Tang did not disclose the method in which chatroom users can select the webcam images they want to view while they are chatting." Applicants contend that since Tang does not disclose a method for using live video only representation of chatter it would not have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to allow chatroom users to select the webcam images of the other chatter.

Applicants maintain that the invention's background does not render the claimed invention obvious. The Applicants maintain that there is no motivation to combine what is disclosed in Tang with the background of the invention. Therefore, Tang in view of the background cannot render the above claim obvious.

Accordingly, Tang does not render the claimed invention obvious. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

The Examiner further stated that:

"Claims 7 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang as applied above and further in view of Ullman et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,018,768).

Regarding Claim 7, Tang disclosed a method which allows users to chat with each other while displaying live webcam images of more than one selected user within a chatroom environment (Figure 5). Tang did not disclose a method in which a list of URLs from each user's personal webcam is requested and

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organized. However, in analogous art, Ullman disclosed a method in which URLs from a video source... is requested, added to the list, and organized for viewing. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include a method to request and organize the URL from each chatter webcam image in order to enable chatters to view live image of other chatters. Requesting URLs or other video stream locators will allow live image of chatters to be located. Organizing URLs will help maintain a chatter profile and correctly associate a particular chatter with his/her image as disclosed by Tang.

Regarding claim 17, the system corresponds directly to the method of claim 7 and is rejected using the same rationale."

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse Examiner's above grounds of rejections. Applicants contend that Ullman patent does not apply to this Application. Ullman describes a method for capturing Television (TV) and video picture feeds through cable boxes. It discloses a combination of cable TV and Internet. Applicants further contend that Ullman does not disclose a chatroom or teach using a chatroom. The invention as disclosed by Ullman does not support multiple endusers either in-house or from the outside. The device disclosed in Ullman acts like a internet TV station in that it only distributes video feed to a computer server from which the feed can then be accessed by other workstation.

Applicants maintain that the invention's background does not render the claimed invention obvious. The Applicants maintain that there is no motivation to combine what is disclosed in Ullman with the background of the invention. Therefore, Ullman in view of the background cannot render the above claim obvious.

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Even assuming *arguendo*, that an ordinary skilled artisan will combine Ullman and Tang, the level of complexity of the closed environment (Tang) is not compared to an Internet chatroom and it cannot render an Internet chatroom obvious. In addition, the unidirectional transfer or transmission of video feeds (Ullman) cannot render a chatroom which is interactive obvious.

Accordingly, Tang further in view of Ullman does not render the claimed invention obvious. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the above grounds of rejections.

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CONCLUSION

In summary, Applicants believe that all grounds of rejections and/or objections raised in the August 13, 2003 Office Action have been addressed, and therefore this application is in full compliance with all requirements. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully urge the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all objections/rejections in the August 13, 2003 Office Action and place this application in conditions for allowance.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Communication. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1891.

Respectfully submitted,

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